Message Text

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TAGS: SPOP, EAID, TZ
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH PRESSING GLOBAL
PROBLEMS - POPULATION GROWTH AND ADEQUATE FOOD
PRODUCTION

REF: STATE 107370

1. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE HIGH LEVELS OF TANGOV RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION AND FOOD. THEY ARE ALSO VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE EMPHASIS USG PLACES ON RESOLVING POPULATION AND FOOD PROBLEMS AND ARE ACTIVELY STRIVING TO IMPROVE FOOD PRODUCTION. MY STAFF AND I MAINTAIN CONTINUAL DIALOGUE WITH THE TANGOV ON THE SUBJECT. USG POSITION REINFORCED MOST RECENTLY DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON TITLE I RICE AGREEMENT SIGNED 28 APRIL AND DURING MY 4 MAY DISCUSSION WITH MINAG MALECELA RE TANZANIA'S STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVE.

2. TANZANIA DEVOTES CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES AND EFFORTS TOWARD ACHIEVING ITS HIGHEST PRIORITY GOAL, INCREASED FOOD PRODUCTION. THE ENTIRE US ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TANZANIA, COMPRISING 96 PERCENT OF OUR RESOURCES AND MANPOWER HERE, IS DEVOTED DIRECTLY TO INCREASING AGRICUTURAL PRODUCTION AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIRECTLY TO FOSTERING POPULATION PLANNING THROUGH MATERNAL CHILD HEATH CLINICS. OUR PL 480 INPUTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO SUPPORT, NOT DISCOURAGE, FOOD PRODUCTION. USAID IS NOW SUPPLYING MOST OF THE CONTRACEPTIVES USED IN THE COUNTRY.

3. GIVEN PRESIDENT NYERERE'S EMPHASIS ON FOOD PRODUCTION, WHICH IS REFLECTED THROUGHOUT TOKVOV POLICIES AND PROGRAMS, MY

DIALOGUE WITH TANZANIAN OFFICIALS IS ONE OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT. EXHORTATION IS NEITHER NECESSARY NOR POLITIC. THEY UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE PROBLEM. THE FOOD SHORTFALL OF 1973/74 AND RESULTANT DRAIN OF FOREIGN RESERVES TO PURCHASE FOOD PROVIDED A STARK LESSON IN THE IMPORTANCE OF FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

4. IN THE POPULATION AREA, THE SITUATION IS SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT. THERE IS NO NATIONAL POLICY ON POPULATION, AND THIS SUBJECT IS CONSIDERED SENSITIVE. MANY TANZANIANS VIEW THE COUNTRY AS UNDERPOPULATED AND POINT TO LARGE EXPANSES OF UNFARMED AREAS. WHILE MINISTRY OF HEALTH SUPPORTS FAMILY PLANNING ACTIVITIES, THESE ARE CARRIED OUT UNDER AUSPICES OF CHILD SPACING AND MOTHER/CHILD HEALTH, WHICH IS ANOTHER AREA OF OUR AID PROGRAM

5. MY STAFF AND I WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE IMPACT OF RAPID POPULATION GROWTH AND INADEQUATE FOOD PRODUCTION ON BOTH TANZANIA AND THE WORLD. SIGNS OF GREATER AWARENESS ARE EVIDENT. WHILE IT MAY BE CYCLICAL PHENOMENON, TANZANIAN GRAINERIES CURRENTLY ARE FILLED WITH LOCALLY-GROWN MAIZE. THE CONCEPT OF FAMILY PLANNING IS REACHING AN INCREASING, THOUGH STILL SMALL, PROPORTION OF THE PEOPLE. OUR EFFORTS HERE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK. WE ASK THAT YOU PROVIDE OUR PROGRAM WITH THE BEST SUPPORT POSSIBLE.

SPAIN

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